

(Five trillion, four hundred ninety-one billion, eight hundred forty-one million).

Five years ago, May 12, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,577,406,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred seventy-seven billion, four hundred six million).

Ten years ago, May 12, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,764,990,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred sixty-four billion, nine hundred ninety million) which reflects a doubling of the debt—an increase of almost \$3 trillion—\$2,813,160,283,470.74 (Two trillion, eight hundred thirteen billion, one hundred sixty million, two hundred eighty-three thousand, four hundred seventy dollars and seventy-four cents) during the past 10 years.

DEATH OF HOLLY SELF DRUMMOND

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, South Carolina recently lost one of its most prominent citizens, Holly Self Drummond, who was known and admired by many throughout the Palmetto State.

"Miss Holly" passed away at the age of 77, and though she led a full life, her death still came too soon. Each of us who knew Holly Drummond remember her as a vibrant, outgoing, and gracious lady who was a pillar of her community and an individual who embodied all that is good about the South.

This was a woman who distinguished herself in many ways throughout her life. She was active in any number of organizations that made her community and our State better places to live. She served as a member of the South Carolina Palmetto Cabinet; the Greenwood Woman's Club; the Sasanqua Garden Club of Ninety Six; and, on the Board of Visitors of Winthrop University and Piedmont Technical College. She was also active in her local church, and of course, was a fixture at the State House where her able husband has served for many years. Her contributions truly benefited others and served as an example of civic mindedness that others strove to emulate.

Holly Drummond's passing is sad—dening for many reasons. My grief is deepened for this woman was a loyal supporter, and more importantly, a valued friend. I had known Holly for more years than I can remember, and her family was well known to me.

Mr. President, Holly Self Drummond's passing leaves a tremendous void not only in the town of Greenwood and the State House of South Carolina, but in the lives of the many men and women who called her "friend." Holly Drummond will not soon be forgotten, and I am certain that all those who knew her would join me in sending condolences to her family.

DERAILING NBC'S ATOMIC TRAIN

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, scare tactics may boost your ratings, but they won't do much for your credibility—especially when you advertise fiction as fact. This weekend, NBC will air a miniseries that is so far from plausible it is indeed laughable. The plot for this hyped up film revolves around a horrifying nuclear accident stemming from the transportation of nuclear weapons and hazardous waste on a train from California to Idaho.

Could this really happen, as the network originally advertised? Should you be staying up late at night to worry if your daily commute will include a rendezvous with spilled nuclear waste and Rob Lowe? Unfortunately, this movie only perpetuates Hollywood's warped depiction of all things nuclear. Because of past hype, Americans envision nuclear waste as a glowing green mass causing human and environmental meltdown on contact—not unlike the demise of the Wicked Witch of the West in the *The Wizard of Oz*. However, nothing could be farther from the truth.

If and when Hollywood comes out with another "scary" nuclear waste film, they might remember a few lessons NBC forgot. First of all, nuclear weapons are not transported by train, nor are they ever armed en route. They are moved by specially crafted 18-wheelers with the latest security and safety technologies and armed Federal agents. Even if an accident should occur, U.S. nuclear weapons are all designed to survive without detonation if jolted or engulfed in flames.

The plot of *Atomic Train* originally depicted the mutual transportation of both a nuclear weapon and nuclear waste, but NBC has changed any references to nuclear waste in the movie to "hazardous" waste. Wrong again. Federal regulations prohibit hazardous waste and nuclear waste from traveling along with nuclear weapons.

Secondly, nuclear waste is not green, glowing, or horrific to look at and great care is taken in its transportation. Spent nuclear fuel is solid, irradiated uranium oxide pellets encased in metal tubes and is non-explosive. It is transported in metal casks which will survive earthquakes, train collision and derailment, highway accident or fire.

To give credit where credit is due, the movie's trailer was right on one count—nuclear waste is transported far more frequently than most Americans realize. This is because the threat to both public and environmental health has been minimized by stringent safety protocols and close to 34 years of fine tuning. The possibility of radioactive materials harming the public en route is slim to none. Since 1965, more than 2,500 shipments of spent nuclear fuel have been transported safely throughout the U.S. without injury or environ-

mental consequences from radioactive materials. That's a pretty good track record to go on.

Materials contaminated by radiation are also transported across the country. In fact, the first shipment of transuranic nuclear waste was safely and uneventfully transported from Idaho's own National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico last month. It was carried in DOE certified containers and tracked by satellite during the 1,400 mile trip. The Western Governors Association worked for years to develop the safest route possible and notify all emergency responders of shipment dates, routes, and even parking areas. Such shipments will become a routine matter in the years ahead.

INEEL celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year, and was the birthplace of harnessing the atom for electrical generation. Close to twenty percent of our electricity comes from nuclear energy, and remains one of the safest energy sources our country has available. Yes, nuclear waste requires special handling and precautions, but so do all of the chemical and industrial waste byproducts of our vibrant economy.

Due to the outcry over NBC's, "this could really happen," trailer, the broadcasting company has made the wise decision to pull the ads, make last minute script changes to fix some of the more blatant inaccuracies, and post a disclaimer at the beginning of the movie. Yes, this is a piece of fiction, and it is predictable that Hollywood would stray far from the truth, but it is downright irresponsible of the network to create mass hysteria to boost ratings. I can only hope that future films will promote a more intelligent plot line.

PROMOTING HEALTH IN RURAL AREAS ACT OF 1999

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of S.980, the "Promoting Health in Rural Areas Act of 1999," which my colleagues and I on the Senate Rural Health Caucus introduced on May 6, 1999.

There is no single issue that unites rural Americans more than access to quality health care. It is one of the most important components of good quality of life in rural areas. The ability to receive high quality health care keeps people in and attracts them to small towns. Good health care services in a community can be both a source of great pride and security and many times local hospitals are a community's largest employer.

But some of that security is being threatened. Access to health care in rural areas can be problematic. Distances are greater. Some hospitals have closed. There are fewer choices of health plans than in urban areas. The